

J: Joy

noun

1. an emotion of keen or lively pleasure arising from present or expected good; exultant satisfaction; great gladness; delight.
2. a source or cause of gladness or delight
3. a state of happiness or felicity.
4. the manifestation of glad feeling; outward rejoicing; festive gaiety.

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Speaker's commentary

The point of departure here is taken from Saint Paul's epistle to the Philippians in which he discusses joy while in prison. His joy is based on anticipation and confidence. How does one musically portray such optimism? If joy is a state, then music is the perfect vehicle to express the state of joy through consistency (repetition) and adaptability (variation). In this musical portrayal of Joy, the music uses two themes which undergo different transformations. Anticipation is created with a permutation of the Iambic meter (short-short-long accents) whereas confidence is represented by rhythmic syncopation which necessitates eventual resolution. We know it will resolve. It is this continual playful use of these two rhythmic and melodic motives that creates a state of joy. And of course, it has to be played by the harp!

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